

# Western Carolina Democrat

and French Broad Hustler

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OLD SERIES—VOL. 17

## A SUNSHINE CITY

Phenomenal Growth and  
Many Attractions of St.  
Petersburg, Fla.

Do you know what the Southern railroad going south leads toward? It leads toward a City of almost perpetual sunshine. Think of that! A city of almost perpetual sunshine! And within easy reach of Hendersonvillians. A through sleeper, via the Southern railroad, to Jacksonville—a day's journey over the Atlantic Coast Line and St. Petersburg, "The Sunshine City," is reached. "The Sunshine City," where strawberries are served at Christmas; where roses and myriad tropical flowers bloom throughout the winter in riotous profusion, and delicious grapefruit, oranges and tender green vegetables furnish a tempting mid-winter menu; where still water and surf bathing afford a delightful diversion to lovers of aquatic pastimes and where the angler finds sport incomparable for the old Salts down on the coast of St. Petersburg can tell fish tales that would cause a very perceptible question point to form between the eyebrows or call forth a derisive smile—and yet the tales be true.

But why is St. Petersburg called "The Sunshine City"? For the reason that there are not many days in the year when the sun-god fails to be propitious, for the sun-god, it is claimed, has an indulgent way of lavishing undue favors upon St. Petersburg, which to define its geographical position, is situated down on the western coast of Florida on the southern boundary of the Pinellas sub-peninsula directly between Tampa Bay on the one side and the Gulf of Mexico on the other. The very location appeals to one as ideal in every way and the stories told by returning tourists of St. Petersburg's picturesque charm and beauty engender a desire upon one's part to learn more of the place. Many have been attracted to St. Petersburg by a unique advertisement, originated by The Independent, which constitutes a standing offer to give away its entire edition every day in the year that the sun falls to slumber upon St. Petersburg and The Independent has had to keep its promise only fifteen times in twenty-eight months, it is claimed.

Twenty-three years ago St. Petersburg was hardly known—then came the Atlantic Coast Line—hotels and boarding houses were built, and right in this connection it may be added that capitalists but recently have let the contract for a three hundred thousand dollar hotel for St. Petersburg, and a rumor is current that a four hundred room hotel will probably be built in the near future at a cost of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. It is claimed that these hotels will be the perfection of art in architectural achievement. But to resume—with the coming of the railroad tourists flocked to St. Petersburg, outside capital became attracted, investments followed and the town built up with a steady, healthful growth. During the past ten years its progress has been marked by leaps and bounds. Tourists from all over the states have flocked to St. Petersburg. Last season 20 thousand people enjoyed the hospitality for which the town is famed. During the past few weeks through trains have brought thousands of tourists from all sections of the North, South, East and West. On January 12th, 1075 members of a congregation were counted in one church alone, which goes to prove that St. Petersburg is not remiss in the matter of Sabbath observance. How many towns of a similar population of little over eight thousand souls can produce as good a record? Many of the tourists that go there for the winter become year-round residents. It is claimed that so many houses are at present being built that the demand for carpenters and day laborers cannot be supplied. As The Daily Times, if the writer remembers correctly, tersely expressed it: St. Petersburg is spreading out in all directions like a big plant." Its growth during very recent years has been almost phenomenal.

But how is one to account for St. Petersburg's wonderful growth and its popularity as a winter resort? Numerous reasons may be assigned: Primarily—its ideal location, easy accessibility both by water and rail, its delightful climate, free from fog and malaria, its splendid system of schools, its church privileges, its fine cement sidewalks (70 miles within city and many miles outside), beautiful 100-foot streets (17 miles paved with brick), its parks, pure water and all modern city improvements, in a word, its moral, physical and civic strength, to say nothing of its manifold places and forms of amusement—fishing, bathing, rowing, sailing, boating, driving, band concerts, public reception, interesting out-side trips, States clubs, and last but by no means least the individual attention and cordiality

## ACCIDENT AT SOUTHERN STATION MAN IS BADLY MANGLED.

Jess Johnson, a negro train hand on the Southern, slipped and fell beneath a moving work train which he was trying to board in the Southern's yards here Friday. As a result his left foot was horribly mangled. Johnson was rushed to the Mission hospital in Asheville where it was found necessary to amputate the foot a few hours later. At last reports he was doing as well as could be expected and his recovery is anticipated.

## PETITION IN BANKRUPTCY

### FILED AGAINST CARSON—ANSWER RETURNABLE IN ASHEVILLE COURTS.

A petition to have Mr. T. B. Carson of this place, adjudged a bankrupt has been filed by some of his creditors. The answer was returnable in the Asheville Courts Wednesday. Various statements are current as to the amount of Mr. Carson's assets and liabilities, but since a schedule of the same has not been made out, this paper declines to publish any of the reports current. Mr. Carson is held in high esteem here and elsewhere and his many friends regret to hear of the necessity of this action on the part of his creditors.

## Big Sales of Real Estate

**Bowen Hill Sold to Mr. S. H. Hudgins**  
The Bowen hill upon which stands the old Bowen home has just been sold to Mr. S. H. Hudgins. Mr. Hudgins contemplates extensive improvements upon this valuable property, which is centrally located in one of the most desirable parts of the town. The residence will be remodeled and will be thoroughly modernized in every detail. Much money will be spent upon outside improvements; the hill will be greatly beautified and it is Mr. Hudgins' intention to make the place one of the most attractive in Hendersonville.

**A Ficker Residence on Fourth Avenue Sold to Mr. C. C. Humphries.**  
The residence on Fourth Avenue, W. owned by Mr. A. Ficker and occupied by Mr. F. E. Durfee, was sold, Saturday, to Mr. C. C. Humphries. This is a valuable piece of property situated in an ideal location and Mr. Humphries is to be congratulated on obtaining it.

Mrs. W. J. Davis is visiting her sister, Mrs. P. E. Nelson, at Fountain Inn, S. C.

shown strangers by its very progressive citizenship.

A very attractive post card folder of St. Petersburg lies on the desk of the writer. This little folder is a silent but eloquent testimonial of the town's progressiveness. One view shows a handsome banking house that would reflect credit on a city many times the size of St. Petersburg. Another, a shell fence, original and artistic in every sense—truly a work of art. Someone has shown ingenuity by picking up the little ordinary shells of the sea and fashioning them into a thing of beauty. The card shows carefully planned, carefully kept streets, a pardonable cause for civic pride. And many a picturesque touch is lent by stately palm or hanging moss. The per-eminence charm of the streets is the plot of green grass and the line of trees which form a beautiful dividing line between the sidewalks and the streets, proper. The quaint, architectural beauty of the residences is another matter for observation. Conspicuous among other noteworthy features is the splendid new high school building quite similar in architectural design to the one in Hendersonville. Just below a view of the beautiful bay and several steamers coming into port hints of outside commerce and direct intercourse with foreign ports. Pursuing the line of thought a little further, a picture of orange trees, top-heavy with golden fruit; and another of a daisy laden with splendid specimens of pineapples, grapefruits and bananas suggests an enormous industry and immense revenue therefrom accruing to the State of Florida. A view of an ostrich farm bespeaks the small fortune hidden away beneath the plumage of a bird. The large number of fishermen on the fishing dock with their long strings of fish tell mutely of a lucrative industry for some, and a pleasant diversion for others. The attractive hotels and beautiful parks bear further testimony of St. Petersburg's progressiveness, and the scenic beauty of the place—the blue and calm of its waters, the avenues of palms, its drooping moss and rioting masses of tropical flowers depicted upon this little postcard folder awake the wanderer's lust and invite the beauty-lover, the sick, the weary Southward, Ho!

## Two Unfortunates Taken To Morganton Asylum

Mr. Will Edney, who has been in ill health for some time and as a consequence became insane a short time ago was brought to Hendersonville Saturday and taken to Morganton by Sheriff T. A. Drake and Mr. Sidney Edney. Sheriff Drake and Mr. Edgar Barnett at the same time took Mrs. John Morris to the State Hospital. A short time ago Mrs. Morris suffered a mental aberration as the result of over-strain from prolonged attendance at the bedside of her invalid mother. It is hoped that the treatment at the State hospital may be the means of restoring the sufferers.

## Extracts From Dr. John E. Ennis' Interesting Letter to The Democrat. Brimfull of True-Blue Optimism.

Here are a few brief extracts from a letter from a winter tourist in St. Petersburg, Fla., none other, by your leave, than Dr. John E. Ennis, well and favorably known in Hendersonville.

"Mr. Moore and myself really take pleasure in our effort to assist your club in making known the many attractions to be found in your beautiful city. I think our work cannot fall to more than double the number of tourists you will have from this section next season and in addition we will give you a number of permanent settlers. Here in this city we find, that every new tourist will, if pleased with the place, bring others the next season. Yesterday six hundred tourists arrived from Ohio on special trains. This morning another train brought in a large crowd. We have fully one thousand tourists here from Ohio, the result of having a State Association.

How glad I am to see you now have a Georgia Association. Next season I will personally make an effort to organize Associations in other States.

The Democrat, issue of the 9th inst., has just arrived and read with great interest. Your "Personal Mention" is splendid and if continued during the tourist season will prove highly interesting to visitors.

I have arranged fully for Mr. Willcox to be our guest (reference is here made to Mr. Willcox's anticipated visit to St. Petersburg, account of the big celebration there on the 22nd).

How I wish a representative of your paper could be present at our entertainment February 21st (reception for Carolinians). If such a thing is possible, our club will make you our guest and entertain you as befitting one of the Royal family.

Many thanks for marked copy of Democrat. It is now a paper any town may be proud of.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN E. ENNIS.

The foregoing letter speaks for itself. Moreover, it literally rings with the spirit of optimism, which rightly translated is "Boosterism" or "Boostism" whichever term is correct. Dr. Ennis evidently carries with him a well-charged battery of the same wherever he goes. Its electrifying influence was felt to good purpose in Hendersonville last summer, and one is stimulated by the very thought that Hendersonville is to feel "the current" again this summer. Dr. Ennis and Mr. Charles E. Moore rightly deserve the appellation of Chieftains of the Boosters' Clan. They have rendered both Hendersonville and St. Petersburg effective service in turning the tourist tide in these directions and too much cannot be said in praise of their splendid efforts.

And, by-the-way, referring to St. Petersburg a mighty fine feeling has sprung up between Hendersonville and "The Sunshine City," as St. Petersburg is aptly styled. The organization of a Florida Club here last summer and of an Auxiliary to the Greater Hendersonville Club in St. Petersburg his winter have promoted and fostered the feeling. That Hendersonville is acutely interested in all that pertains to the welfare of St. Petersburg goes without saying. The growth of St. Petersburg has been and continues to be almost phenomenal. The Democrat has been making notes from time to time of its progressiveness, and has embodied them in an article in this issue entitled "The Sunshine City."—News Ed.

**First Presbyterian Church.**  
Congregational meeting will follow the morning service next Sunday. All members are urged to be present. Rev. R. P. Smith of Asheville will probably preach.

The many friends of "Uncle" Jess Shepherd, a veteran of the sixties, will be sorry to learn of his serious illness.

## NOTES IN PASSING.

### Why Stir up the Germs and Menace Health by Sweeping the Streets During the Day Time?

A man who thinks and a man whose opinion is not to be set aside lightly asked the Dreamer the other day why it was that the City Fathers had the streets swept during the day instead of the night? The Dreamer couldn't answer offhand, for the Dreamer didn't know. In the midst of the busy rush, the Dreamer pauses a moment now to consider the matter of sweeping the streets during the day time, for the man's question set a wave of thought in motion and the Dreamer hopes the wave of thought may reach you. During the business hours scores of people are constantly passing and re-passing along the streets, especially in this true of the main thoroughfares, and it is at this particular time that the street sweeper seems to get busiest. Now, it is altogether commendable of the street sweeper to get busy—Hendersonville needs that it should—but why should the street sweeper get busy during the hours when traffic is heaviest? The other day the Dreamer started up Main street during the busy hours and came face to face with the objectionable street sweeper and what was infinitely worse a cloud of dust that followed in its trail and set the Dreamer to coughing. It was far from a comfortable sensation, to say the least, to feel that more than likely millions of germs were hidden away in the volume of dust that was forcing its way into the nostrils and into the lungs nor was it a pleasant sensation to have the stuff settle over one's clothes. The Dreamer wanted to see a clean street but somehow the Dreamer resented the presence of that obnoxious street sweeper during daylight hours.

### Why Stir up the Germs and Menace Health by Sweeping the Streets During the Day Time?

The city fathers have doubtless not thought of the matter in this light, for it is not to be doubted for a moment that they have the best interests of the town at heart and want to fulfill the duties of their office in the best possible way. At night not many people are about, the doors are closed, the blinds or shades are drawn, and there would not be half the danger of spreading contagion from stirring up the germs by sweeping the streets at this time, to say nothing of the annoyance and discomfort that would be averted.

### Why Should Not Hendersonville Have a Better Passenger Station?

The report is current that the Southern Railroad expects to expend one hundred thousand dollars in improvements on the Asheville station. Because of the cordial relations existing between the two towns, Hendersonville is glad to hear that her sister city is to be benefitted in this respect, but at the same time Hendersonville feels a little "sore" to drop into the vernacular of the street, at what someone has boldly termed "favoritism" on the part of the Southern railroad. Nor is Hendersonville unmindful of the fact that the Southern has expended over five thousand dollars in improvements on the passenger station here, the team track which is now in process of construction and the bitulithic approach to the station, the latter improvement having just been completed, but Hendersonville is mindful of the fact that the passenger station is wholly inadequate to meet the demands of the travel that comes this way. Hendersonville is now one of the best known resorts in the South; it is beginning to claim a goodly percentage of winter as well as summer tourists and it would seem that in view of this fact the Southern ought to give Hendersonville a station in keeping with its needs and the general growth and expansion of the town. To

## LEGISLATIVE MILL GRINDS OUT IMPORTANT MEASURES

say that the ladies' waiting room is poorly equipped expresses it mildly—there is not a couch upon which a sick person may rest—nor even a mirror in the toilet room by which a travel stained passenger may make a respectable toilet and the room is so small and cramped that three people occupying it at the same time crowd each other to the point of discomfort. The long shed to the station is a matter of pride; the seats underneath are comfortable; the new unloading track is a decided convenience; the paved approach to the station a vast improvement over the muddy expanse that once existed, but the interior accommodations of the station are wholly inadequate. Annually Hendersonville pours thousands of dollars in revenue from freight and passenger traffic into the coffers of the Southern railroad. Considering the present remarkable growth of the town, the Southern's business will be greatly increased in the not distant future,—is it then asking too much that the Southern railroad give Hendersonville a station in keeping with its requirements? The Dreamer believes the Southern Railway to be a fair-minded corporation and that it is only a question of a short time until it gives Hendersonville better passenger station facilities.

### Hendersonville's Bum Mail Service.

Because of the complaints herein set forth, it may be thought that the Dreamer has a grouch or is out on the war-path. The Dreamer pleads guilty to neither charge. The fact is that these matters have intruded themselves into the mind of the Dreamer with such recurrent persistence, that the Dreamer can no longer refrain from voicing them in a public way, for they are but the echo of the sentiment of countless Hendersonvillians. So just a moment's attention, please, to the last number on the program of today's Notes in Passing—Hendersonville's mail service—which to drop again into the vernacular of the street, is decidedly bum, and this, with every deference to the good postmaster and his efficient helpers who are in no way to blame for the service. Did it ever occur to you, and doubtless it has, if you have had important mail to send out, that seventeen hours elapse between the two north bound mails? In other words, that there is no north-bound mail out from here after eight o'clock at night until the following day at one P. M., although two north-bound trains pass here between those hours, the Spartanburg train at 9:50 and the Toxaway train at 10:30—yet neither carry mail. The Dreamer has often had to carry important "rush" copy for Asheville papers to the station and ask some one of the passengers on one of these trains to mail it after they reach Asheville in order that it get to press in time, or else must either wire or phone the matter if it is very urgent. Two morning trains northbound and yet no mail service and one is put to the expense of resorting to the telegraph or telephone with all matters demanding haste, when an early morning mail would solve the problem. Better service is promised when the summer travel opens up but when one pauses to consider that Hendersonville is taxed in proportion to its size at the same ratio as other towns for the support of Uncle Sam, it does seem that Hendersonville should merit more consideration at the hands of the government in having a better year-round mail service. In other words, it would hardly seem that Uncle Sam is giving Hendersonville the "Square deal," anyway.

### REPRESENTATIVE PATTON HAS Poured Fourth Bill INTO HOPPER OF INTEREST TO HENDERSON COUNTY.

## MANY BILLS INTRODUCED

Woman Suffrage, Compulsory Education, Good Roads, Anti-Trust, Game Law, and Other Bills of General Interest are Introduced—Legislation Tenth District.

(By Noah M. Hollowell.)

Raleigh, N. C.—Grist mills, to use every-day, common country parlance, are sometimes "pecked" when the large stones become dull and do unsatisfactory work.

Although the legislative mill, the General Assembly of North Carolina, has not done enough work at the present session to become dull, (properly speaking it has just been rubbed up a little) many obstructive matters have been removed, such as the formal ratification of the election of the State officers last November, the election of United States Senator F. M. Simmons, the hearing of reports from various State officers and State institutions, disposing of matters incident to the inauguration of the governor, etc., the law mill started grinding the day after the inauguration just as if it had undergone a careful "pecking" or sharpening. This fact was brought out by the rapid introduction of bills in both branches of the legislature, there being thirty-nine in the House and nineteen in the Senate introduced on Thursday, which showed marked progress along this line as only a few bills had been introduced up to this time.

The machinery is in fine running order now and there is apparently nothing in sight to block some real effective legislation of State-wide interest. The various committees of the Senate and House are in shape to give matters referred to them utmost consideration, although at this writing some of the House committees have not been appointed. The various clerks, stenographers, pages, officers, etc., have familiarized themselves with their work and there will be a strenuous time from now until final adjournment, at which time probably 1,200 acts will have been ratified, to say nothing of the hundreds that will die a natural death in the hands of the committees.

Following will be found the substance of the bills introduced up to this writing by Representatives and Senators from the Tenth Congressional district, and other bills of State-wide importance:

Senator S. W. Lovingsood, of Murphy, has introduced another bill of State-wide importance. It provides that the rights, powers and privileges of corporations chartered to build railroads, power plants, etc., shall cease and the charter shall be revoked unless operation shall commence within 12 months after ratification of this act, the provision being made that the work must be completed within 5 years after March 1. No report has been made by the committee to which the bill was referred and before which Senators Lovingsood and W. J. Hannah of Waynesville, outlined the advantages that would accrue if the State had a law of this kind, while Edward Norville, of Waynesville, who is enrolling clerk for the General Assembly strenuously opposed the bill before the committee, declaring that it would work a great hardship upon companies that had been chartered to undertake developments. Senators Lovingsood and Hannah took the position that the corporations buy choice water power and railroad sites for speculative or selfish purposes with no intention of carrying out the developments.

Senator Zebulon Weaver, of Asheville, on the day after the inauguration of Governor Craig, introduced a bill affecting the work and salary of clerks to the governor. Under the existing law, the executive clerk to the governor, to which place Governor Craig has appointed his junior law partner, Garland A. Thompson, is entitled to \$1200 annually and an allowance of \$300 is made for a stenographer and \$500 is allowed for work done for the adjutant general. The Weaver bill provides that the executive clerk shall receive not more than \$2900 and that his duties be combined with those of the stenographer allowed and that no fees be received for work done for the adjutant general. As the idea of retrenchment in expenses has been in evidence at this session of the General Assembly, there was some opposition in the Senate to the bill until it was explained that by combining the two offices there was a saving of \$100, then the bill was favored by all the Senators present except Senator J. H. Bridgers of Henderson, who said that the clerical services would be cut

## MANY ENTERPRISING CONCERNS.

Wide Awake establishments That Believe In Advertising in The Western Carolina Democrat.

J. V. Helsel, Manufacturer of Metal Works.

The city of Hendersonville is proud of such an enterprise as the one owned by Mr. J. V. Helsel. Doing a general repair work, manufacturing anything in tin, copper, brass or other metal this concern is fast winning a name in this section of the state. Mr. Helsel himself is a skilled workman in this line. With able assistance he has turned out some remarkable tin work. There is hardly a house which goes up in this section that he does not get some part of the work.

Just lately he has added the famous "Star" brand tin shingle to his stock and is having much success in introducing this into the city.

Mr. Helsel has moved his plant into the Few Bros., old stand on Main

street where he has a more spacious store room.

### Hendersonville Lumber Company.

Situated at the depot near the track of the Southern Railroad is the Hendersonville Lumber Company's main office and yards. This concern owned by Bennett brothers has been in business over 18 years and has grown in size and volume of business every year. For the past several years a sawmill and wood dressing machinery has been installed. This is the only lumber concern in the city which has machinery for dressing and ripping special orders of lumber. A large yard is kept filled with rough and dressed lumber to order. Messrs. Bennett have studied the lumber business

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